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SENATE BILL 145
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 6
and Title 36, Chapter 5, relative to child support.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds and declares that it is the public policy of this

state to assure frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents except in cases

where the court specifically finds that such contact is not in the best interest of the child; now

therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-5-101, is amended by

redesignating the current subdivision (a)(5) as item "(a)(5)(A)" and by adding the following new

item:

(B) The court may, upon notice and hearing, suspend child support subject to

the requirements of this subsection or order a modification in the amount of child support

ordered, upon proof that the obligor has been, without good cause, continuously or

repeatedly prevented from exercising visitation rights established by a court order. Any

such order shall include a written finding specifying the justification for such modification,

as well as to the anticipated impact the modification will have upon the best interests of the child or children.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 5, Part 22, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

36-5-22__.

(a) Where a tribunal of this state may exercise its personal jurisdiction over a nonresident under §36-5-2201, and has continuing jurisdiction under §36-5-2205, such tribunal may, upon notice and hearing, suspend child support or order a modification in the amount of support ordered as provided in §36-5-101(a)(5)(B).

(b) A tribunal of this state may also serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to suspend or modify a support order issued in that state, consistent with §36-5-101(a)(5)(B).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.